

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 have been examined. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-5 and 8-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form as indicated in the revised Office Action Summary (PTO-326) accompanying the Interview Summary dated June 17, 2003. By this amendment claims 3-5 and 8-10 are rewritten into independent form. Therefore claims 3-5 and 8-10 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sullivan et al. in view of Shou et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed. However, to obtain early allowance of the subject application and to advance prosecution, claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the refiling of the subject matter in a subsequent application.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 3-5 and 8-10 should be passed to issue at the earliest possible time. If for any reason the application is found other than to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Washington, D.C. telephone number 293-7060 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Application No. 09/497,513

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Bernstein", written over a horizontal line.

Howard L. Bernstein
Registration No. 25,665

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 21, 2003